

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 15 SEP 50

SUBJECT Personnel Changes in the
Railway Management

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Dr. Walter Spiess, head of the Traffic Department of the Reichsbahn Generaldirektion, has resigned because of disagreement with other officials over the greatly increased freight tariffs soon to be declared for all of the DDR. One of his chief advisors, Ewald Miller, also resigned. According to official statements, Spiess retired because of long years of service and age.

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2. Hetz, a former German army officer, has been appointed the business manager for the Reichsbahn Generaldirektion. He had previously served as the director of workshops.
3. Kellner, vice-president of the RBD (Reichsbahn Direktion--Railway Administration) Berlin, will become the Hauptreferent of the Department of Work and Compensation for the Reichsbahn Generaldirektion.
4. Willi Barth, president of RBD Dresden since 1946, will replace Schmidtke, as president of RBD Berlin. Schmidtke, it has been decided, will be pensioned. He was supposed to be given a position at the Generaldirektion.
5. Prickler, formerly in charge of the passenger train service section, will be named chief of the Department for Passenger Traffic, replacing Heilborn. Prickler has advanced rapidly

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CLASSIFICATION

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7. Ruhl, a district official at Chemnitz, will be the new president of RSD Dresden. Lehmann, district official from Aue, will become vice-president.
8. The director of the Department for Culture and Welfare of the Reichsbahn Generaldirektion is responsible directly to the SED party secretariat. This position is at present unfilled. The party interests are unofficially represented by Press, who works at the Generaldirektion.
9. An order has been issued requiring all SED employees of the Reichsbahn Generaldirektion to join the Soviet-German Friendship Society. Later an order will be given requiring the same of all non-SED employees. A speaker before a meeting of SED railroad employees on 8 June 1950 declared that those who do not want to join the Soviet-German Friendship Society now would be overrun by the "steamroller" in the near future.
10. About 100 Reichsbahn employees residing in the western sectors of Berlin have been notified of termination of their employment, to take effect 30 June 1950. Scores of other west sector employees have been assigned to positions in the Soviet Sector of Berlin. Allegedly this has been done to conserve west mark funds.

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